AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as indicated below.

Please amend the paragraph starting on line 6 of page 1 as follows:

The present application is related to concurrently filed U.S. patent application No.: ~~xx/xxx,xxx (Attorney Docket No. M-8715 US)~~ 09/669,526, entitled "Implementation of Multicast in an ATM Switch," commonly assigned and having common inventors.

Please add the following paragraph between lines 19 and 20 of page 1:

An ATM switch according to some embodiments of the present invention includes a memory and a control circuit. The control circuit maintains in the memory a connection table which includes a multicast master entry and one or more multicast member entries associated with the multicast master entry. The multicast master entry includes a limit field and a count field. The limit field is set to a predefined value and the count field is initialized to a predefined initial value. The limit field and said count field are compared to determine an active status for each one of the multicast member entries. In one embodiment, the control circuit increments the count field whenever an ATM cell is received and decrements the count field whenever an ATM cell is transmitted. When the count field is equal to or greater than the limit field, a connection failure is declared for the multicast member entry currently being transmitted and the member entry is set to an inactive status. The member entry can be removed from the connection table.

Please amend the paragraph starting on line 3 of page 25 as follows:

Switch controller 202 performs various validation routines before transmitting the multicast cell for the current member entry in a ~~conventionally~~ conventional manner. If switch controller 202 determines that all the validation routines check out, the multicast cell is ready to be transmitted to the connection designated by the member entry 332. The multicast cell in main cell memory 224 is retrieved using the memory address stored in cell link memory 216. The ATM cell is put on the output queue in the selected one of output ports 228a-h. The cell header of the ATM cell is modified according to the connection information (e.g. DVPI, DVCI, output port number) of the current member entry (entry 332). The ATM cell with the new header is then transmitted through one of output ports 228a-h.

Please amend the abstract starting at line 6 on page 63 as follows:

~~An ATM switch includes a memory and a control circuit. The control circuit maintains in the memory a connection table which includes a multicast master entry and one or more multicast member entries associated with the multicast master entry. The multicast master entry includes a limit field and a count field. The limit field is set to a predefined value and the count field is initialized to a predefined initial value. The limit field and said count field are compared to determine an active status each one of the multicast member entries. In one embodiment, the control circuit increments the count field whenever an ATM cell is received and decrements the count field whenever an ATM cell is transmitted. When the count field is equal to or greater than the limit field, a connection failure is declared for the multicast member entry currently being transmitted and the member entry is set to an inactive status. The member entry can be removed from the connection table.~~ An ATM switch according to the present invention includes a memory and a control circuit. The ATM switch generates a connection table in a memory, generates a multicast master entry including a limit field and a count field. The multicast master entry also includes address locations at which multicast ATM cells are stored. The ATM switch further generates one or more multicast member entries associated with said multicast master entry in said connection table, each multicast member entry identifying a destination connection on which said multicast ATM cells are to be transmitted. Further, the count field is initialized and the limit field is set at a predetermined value. The master entry is then determined to be active or inactive depending on a comparison between the count field and the limit field.